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Fourteenth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

**(This report covers the week from
18 May through 24 May 1973)**

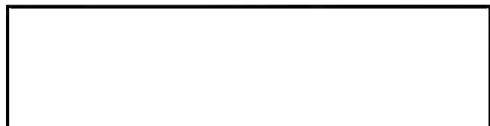
*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

DIA review(s) completed.

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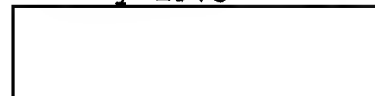
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COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
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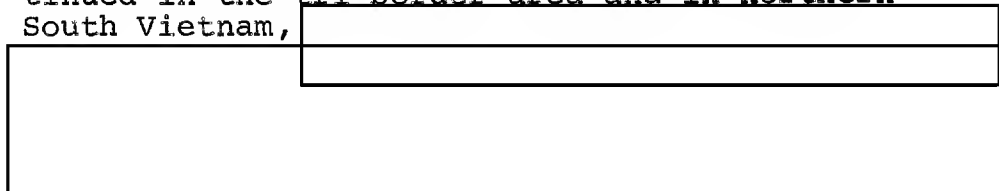
(This report covers the week from
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The Key Points

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- NVA logistic activity in the northern portion of the Laos Panhandle has diminished as increasingly heavy rains begin to hamper operations. Heavy Communist logistic activity continued in the tri-border area and in northern South Vietnam,



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The Details

NOTE: This is the fourteenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies
Toward and Into South Vietnam and Laos

5. NVA logistic activity appears to be slowing down in the northern portions of the Laos Panhandle as increasingly heavy rains begin to hamper operations. A substantial flow of traffic was observed during the week on the principal north-south roads in this area, but at levels lower than those of the preceding week and well below those seen in late April. Increased activity, however, was detected in the tri-border area of southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia, where good evidence indicates that large quantities of supplies are continuing to move from Laos to NVA units in the central highlands of South Vietnam. A high level of Communist logistic activity also continued in northern South Vietnam, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

In addition, substantial logistic flows were observed

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in southern North Vietnam, where large rail shipments [] were noted at Vinh, and heavy vehicle activity was evident south of Vinh in the southern part of the panhandle.

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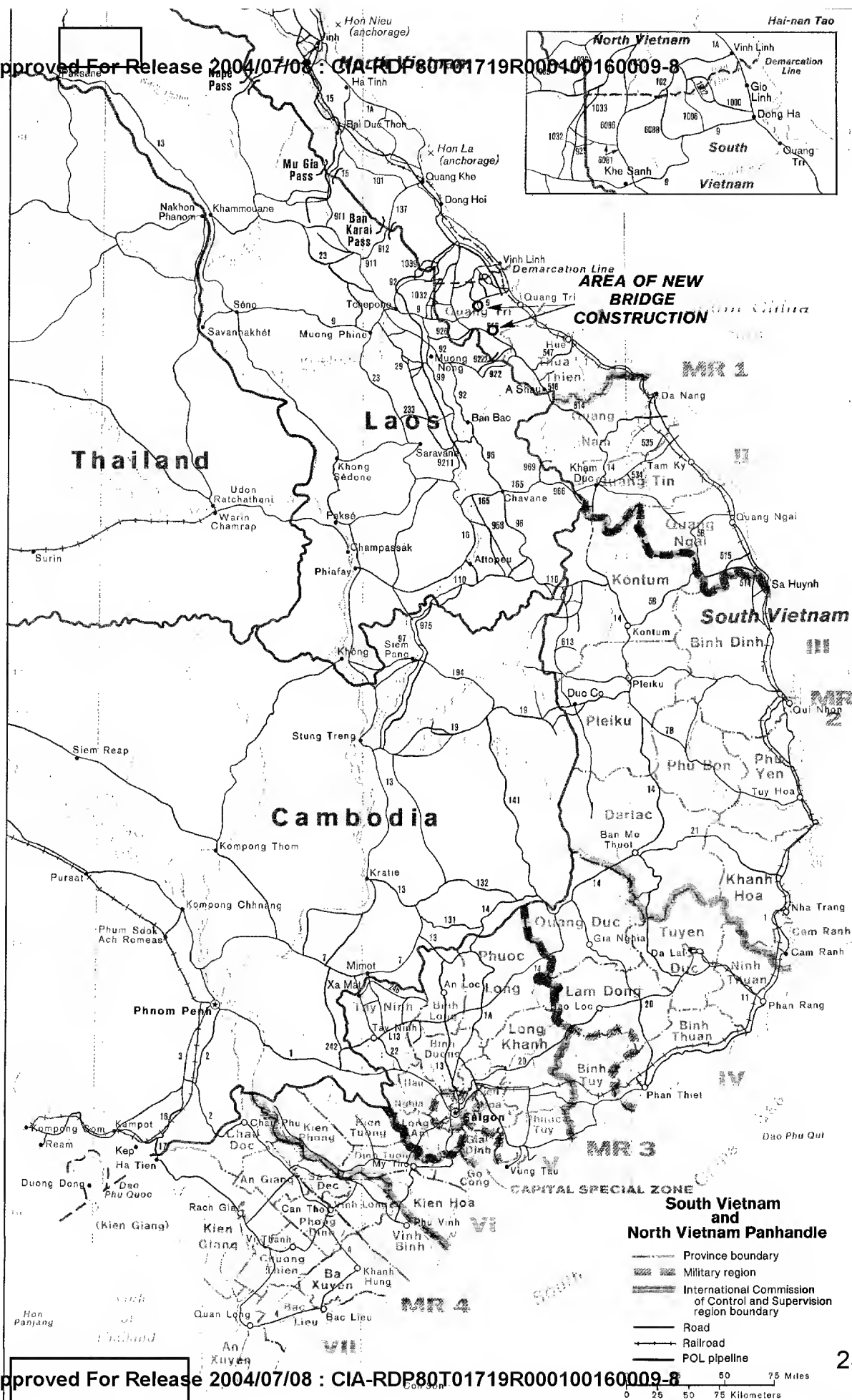
7. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

- a) As of 12 May, the new road under construction south from Route 19 in GVN MR-2 had been extended another 10 miles in Darlac Province since it was last observed on 16 April. A total of 60 miles have been constructed since 29 March. Several of the recently detected segments are two lanes in width and run parallel to the original roadbed, indicating the road will have a substantial logistic capability.

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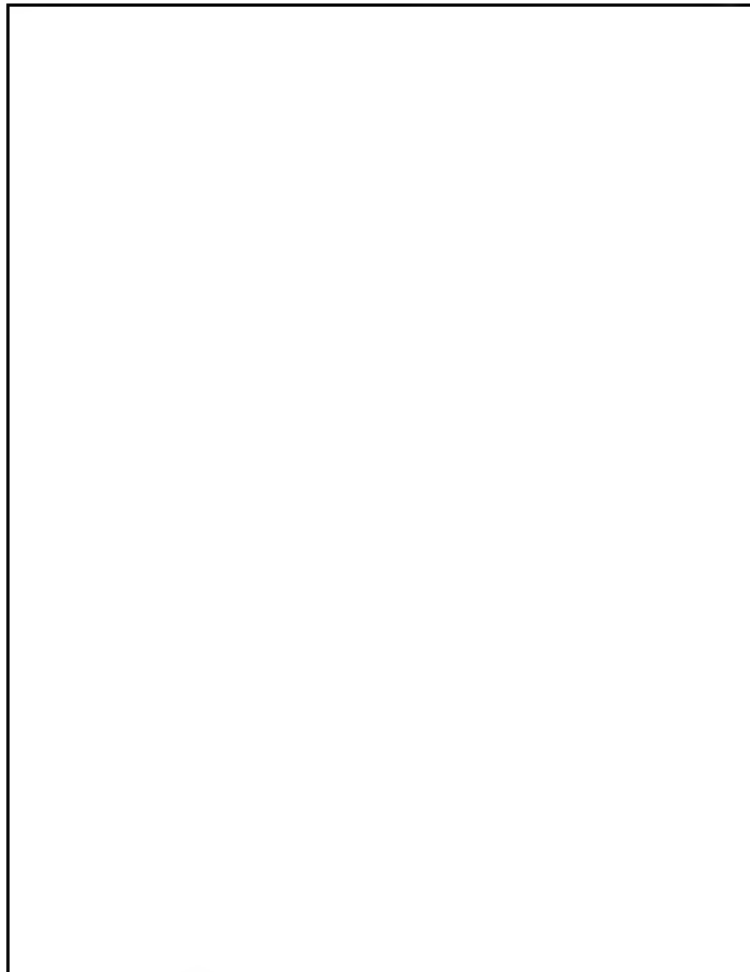
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Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

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- c) As of 16 May, the North Vietnamese had completed a 150 foot steel span bridge on Route 9 in north-central Quang Tri Province. This is the first steel bridge which has been observed under construction in any Communist-controlled area of South Vietnam. (See map)
- d) As of 20 May, a 350 foot, 14 span bridge was being built, probably of timber, on Route 616 south of Khe Sanh. (See map)

- e) On 17 May, 48 cargo vehicles were observed on Route 9 immediately east of the Laos/South Vietnam border (36 eastbound, 3 westbound, 9 parked).
- f) On 20 May, 59 cargo trucks were observed on Route 9 between the Laos/South Vietnam border and Dong Ha (25 eastbound, 3 westbound, 9 parked).
- g) On 20 May, 12 cargo trucks were seen parked along Route 1 north of Dong Ha.
- h) On 20 May, 2 cargo trucks were observed traveling south and 6 parked on Route 616, southwest of Khe Sanh.

8. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of this activity probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- a) The table below lists observed NVA vehicle activity on selected routes in the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Route 99</u>	<u>Route 9211</u>	<u>Route 958</u>
17 May	2 (2-S)	32 (5-N, 12-S)	NC**
18 May	79 (25-N, 26-S)	11 (3-N, 3-S)	49 (8-N, 6-S)
19 May	NC**	15 (7-N, 2-S)	11 (Parked)
20 May	56 (10-N, 9-S)	21 (5-N, 11-S)	52 (11-N)
21 May	16 (5-N, 2-S)	35 (26-N, 9-S)	77 (34-N, 1-S)
22 May	100 (54-N, 8-S)	64 (30-N, 9-S)	2 (1-N, 1-S)
23 May	40 (23-N, 11-S)	41 (16-N, 8-S)	98 (3-N, 0-S)

* The first number in each entry is the total number of vehicles. Of these totals, the number of trucks moving north (N) or south (S) are noted in the parentheses after each total. The remainder of the vehicles detected were parked along the roadway at the time of observation.

** No coverage.

- b) The following activity was observed on Route 96/110 during the reporting period;
- 1) On 17 May, 35 southbound cargo vehicles were traveling on the route directly west of the Laos/South Vietnam border.
 - 2) On 19 May, 22 cargo vehicles were parked along the segment of 110 immediately adjacent to the Laos/South Vietnam border.
 - 3) On 21 May, 29 northbound cargo vehicles and 34 vehicles were parked on the segment of Route 96 north of the 96/110 junction. On the same date, 16 cargo trucks were parked on the segment of Route 110 west of the Laos/South Vietnam border.
- c) During the period 17 through 23 May, 87 northbound and 43 southbound cargo vehicles were detected moving on Route 912 through the Ban Karai Pass.

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C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
in South Vietnam Since the Cease-fire

10. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist initiated cease-fire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 28 January and for the last week (18-24 May) are shown below:

<u>Military Region</u>	<u>Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action</u>		<u>Last Week (18-24 May) Level of Action</u>	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	937	3,102	23	81
MR 2	220	1,630	3	65
MR 3	347	2,189	10	83
MR 4	565	5,286	12	260
Totals	2,069	12,207	48 (82) <u>1/</u>	489 (485) <u>1/</u>

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

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11. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the cease-fire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the cease-fire.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in Laos during the Week from 18 through 24 May

12. Military activity in Laos remained low during the reporting period. The only noteworthy incidents occurred in the Sala Phou Khoun area of Lao Military Region II and the Muong Phalane area of Military Region III. Specific incidents included:

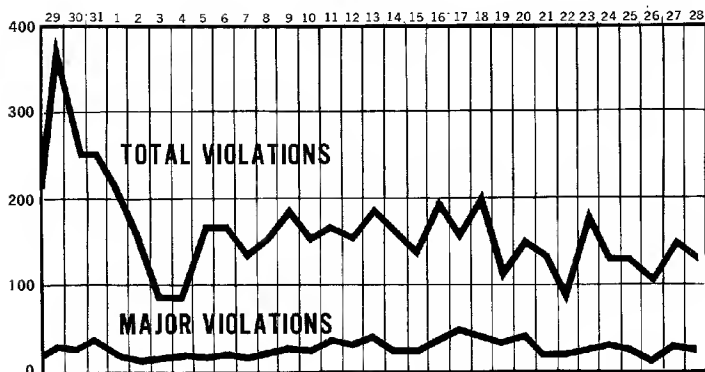
- a) On 18 May the Pathet Lao forces in the Sala Phou Khoun area fired 50 rounds of howitzer and mortar fire on a Lao Army platoon-size patrol.
- b) On 21 and 22 May, two NVA companies drove back a Lao Army company in an area 13 kilometers south of Muong Phalane. On 23 May, an estimated three NVA companies, supported by 50 rounds of 85mm field gun fire, again attacked the same Lao Army company.



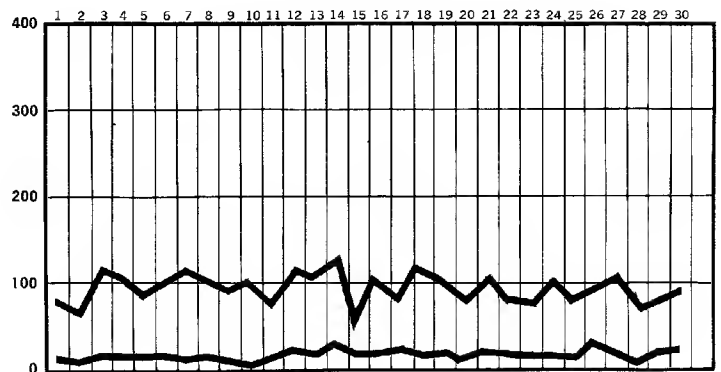
CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)

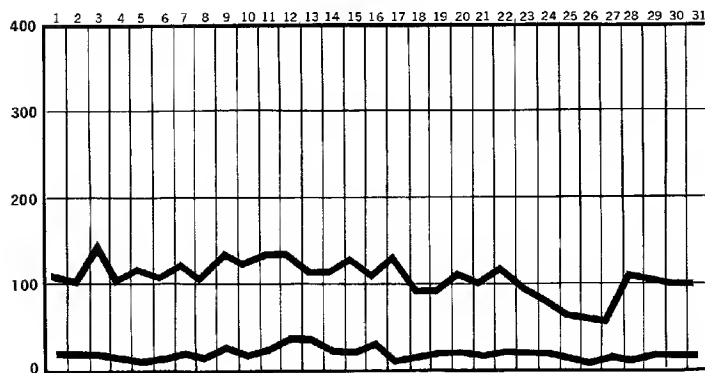
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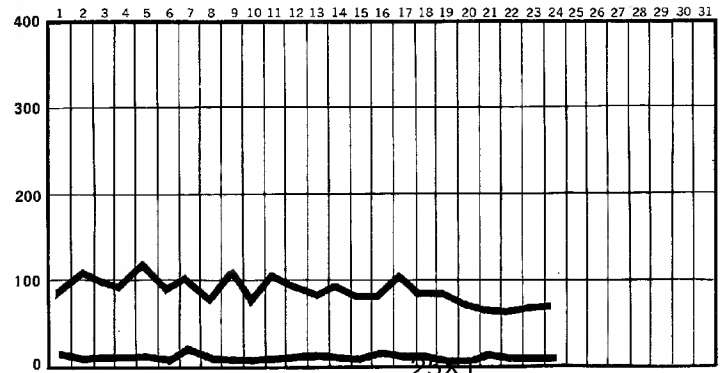
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